BUY-SELL—FOR BEST RESULTS USE CLASSIFIED ADS

# SUSIE Q. SMITH

By Linda and Jerry Walter

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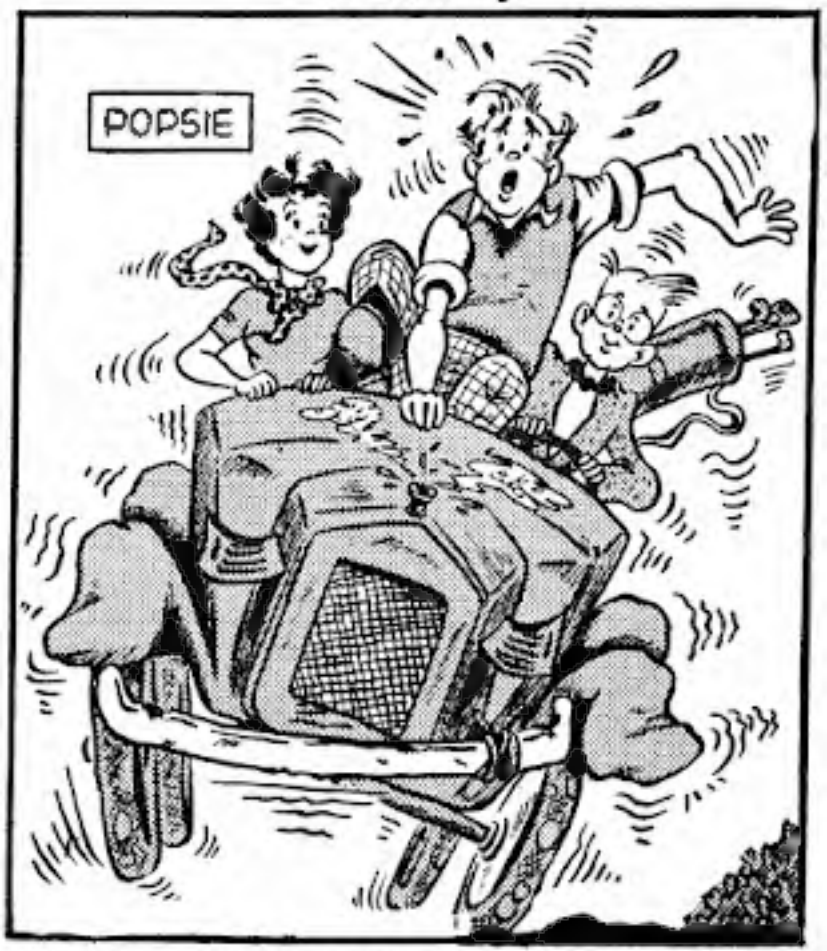
"The one thing I insist on my girl having is a mother who can cook!"

—Steve Cresse photo.

**LINDA WALTER**
**. . . Does Drawings**

# SUSIE Q




"P-p-please let me out! I've already h-had my exercise f-for the w-w-week!"

SUSIE Q. SMITH

HERE'S A DIME, CLEO... NOW, DO AS I TOLD YOU
OK!
I'M READY, CAZ.
CLEO!
I ENTERTAINED CAZ WHILE YOU GOT DRESSED, SUSIE... JUST LIKE YOU TOLD ME!

## *SUZIE Q. SMITH* *By Linda and Jerry Walter*

"Where is everybody? Oh, here she comes!"

Return to
Susie Q. Smith's
Memory Book

Bashful Bunny

Slugger
(Sometimes he's an awful b)

Mom

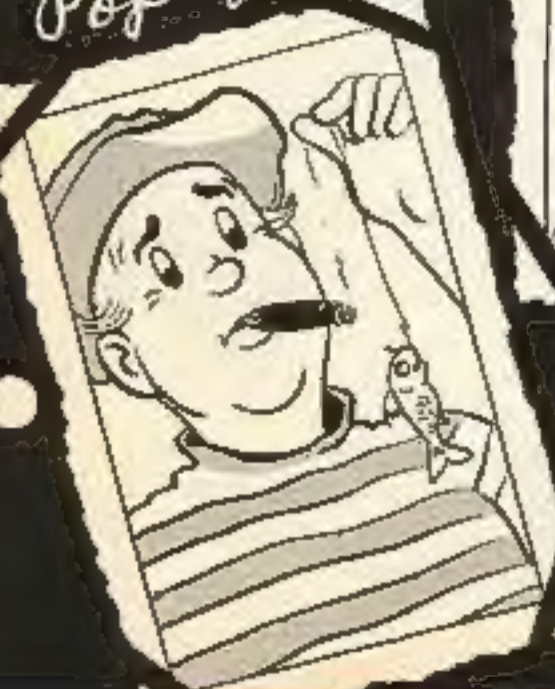
Guess Who!

Thanks to

Perry Como

Lege O'Hara
and
two of
my men!

Popsy



Cleo and Hairbrush Harry

# Linda and Jerry Walter

Linda and Jerry Walter, who draw the comic adventures of *Susie Q. Smith*, the cartoon panel so widely distributed by King Features Syndicate, are perfect examples of the old maxim that success is 10 per cent genius and 90 per cent hard work.

This young married couple has everything; they're both personable, they're both brainy, they both were at the top of their classes in school and they're both extremely good-looking. They each have a natural flair for comedy, and each can draw. You'd think that all they would have to do would be to press a button and watch the money roll in.

Instead, they toil about twice as hard as any young career-minded couple ever worked. They sweat over their ideas, take infinite pains with their drawings and are always poking around for new developments and improvements, like eager young beavers. In Linda's words, "Please emphasize the fact we work like the devil." And they do. Jerry is now doing *Jellybean Jones* in addition to *Susie*.

The most unusual thing about these two, of course, is that they each can dream up ideas for *Susie Q.* and they each can draw the comic. Basically, the first job is Jerry's and the second Linda's, but when the occasion demands, Jerry gets behind the ink pot and easel and Linda stares out the window and just thinks. Of course, we, the poor public, never do know the difference.

Let's take them one at a time. Linda was born Linda Stimpson in Cranford, N. J., where she went to school and became the Big Activity Girl. She had to turn down college scholarships in art and music on graduation, and became a business girl. Building up to private secretary to the president of an insurance agency (the Walters are the kind of people who automatically shoot to the top), she quit to go with the Butterick Pattern Co. as assistant to the company's head designer.

"In between Butterick and Saks Fifth Avenue," the dark-haired, charming Linda says, "I met and married Jerry. He was writing advertising copy for Batten, Barton, Durstine and Osborn. I did likewise for Saks, until one day I just quit to take up cartooning seriously."

With Jerry feeding the ideas and Linda drawing them, they were a smash hit in the cartooning field almost immediately.

Jerry—born Harold Walter—is a native of Mount Pleasant, Ia., class of 1915, and after life in a half-dozen high schools, because his father's business kept the family traveling, he entered Colgate University and promptly became a Big Activity Man. He was a good back on the Colgate frosh football team, but a neck injury ended that career and he turned to track and lacrosse. Meanwhile, he became editor of the *Colgate Banter*, president of the junior class and Lord knows what. Jerry really made college a career.

"So, after a glorious four years," he says with a grin, "I went right out after graduation and got a job with J. Walter Thompson's ad agency—as an office boy."

Jerry then took a stab at short-story writing, without exactly setting the world afire, although to this day he still pounds out tales when he has a spare moment (laugh) and sells them. He taught dancing for a half year for Arthur Murray, too, as Linda did later when Jerry flew for the ATC.

Then back to the ad agencies—until war came along. Jerry's neck injury kept him out of the Air Corps, so he joined the ATC, and as a navigator logged an impressive number of hours in the air before his neck injury acted up again and he got his discharge late in 1944.

"*Susie Q. Smith* takes real study," they chorus. "We spend at least one day a week with teen-age kids, learning how they dress and speak. Of course, the kids help. They send in suggestions all the time. We love *Susie* and her pals."